

REMARKS

Responsive to the Office Action mailed on September 5, 2007 in the above-referenced application, Applicant respectfully requests amendment of the above-identified application in the manner identified above and that the patent be granted in view of the arguments presented. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Present Status of Application

Claims 1-7, 18, 20 and 24-25 are allowed. Claims 8, 21, 23 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Chaffee (US 5,267,363). Claims 9-16, 22 and 27 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In this paper, claims 8-11, 13-15, 21 and 26-27 are canceled without prejudice. The cancellation of said claims is made solely for the purpose of advancing the prosecution of the application and should not be construed as an admission with respect to the merits of the rejections. Claims 12, 16 and 23 are amended to depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1. Claim 6 is amended to improve syntax. Thus, on entry of this amendment, claims 1-7, 12, 16, 18, and 23-25 remain in the application.

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and the remarks contained below.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowance of claims 1-7, 18, 20 and 24-25. Insofar as all claims now remaining in the application depend either directly or indirectly from allowed claim 1, the application is believed to be condition for allowance.

Appl. No. 10/696,813
Examiner: Hewitt, James M, Art Unit 3679
In response to the Office Action dated September 5, 2007

Date: December 4, 2007
Attorney Docket No. 10111394

Conclusion

The Applicant believes that the application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests so. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. **502447**.

Respectfully submitted,

/Nelson A. Quintero/

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